

Theft: Young Mother Took Ring From Jewellers

*An opportunistic theft led to a
meeting and police caution.*

Lisa, a young mother, went shopping with her children. She went into a jeweller's shop to buy a necklace. Whilst the Shop Assistant was running her credit card through the till, Lisa noticed a gold ring on the counter. Quietly she pocketed it. Later another customer returned to the shop to collect the ring, her own, having forgotten to put it back on after trying a new one. Unable to find it, she and the Shop Assistant put two and two together, so they called the Police to report a possible theft and to pass on Lisa's details from the credit card counterfoil. In due course Lisa received a visit from a Police Officer, who spied the ring on her finger and arrested her. Interviewed at the local police station, she recounted what had happened. 'As soon as I got out I knew I'd done wrong. It was just so stupid. When the police came round I knew what they were there for – I knew it was just a matter of time. The first thing I thought of was my kids – they still don't know what I've done. Everything I taught them...I'm just a sham.' Lisa handed over a letter of apology she had written, and was asked to come back to the police station the following week. 'We're not here to say you're a bad person, you've just made a mistake and this would help you put closure to it,' the officer said. Lisa returned as requested, and met with a Store Manager representing the shopping centre where the theft had occurred. She heard from the Manager what a huge problem shoplifting was in the city, and told him how remorseful and ashamed she was for what she had done. Finally she met the Police Officer again to receive an official caution. 'I don't think she'll ever re-offend,' the officer noted later.